REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 1-21 and have replaced the canceled claims with claims 22-43 amended to conform to U.S. formalities. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of these amendments.

In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH, LLP

Bv:

Chris E. Aniedobe Reg. No. 48,293

Date: January 4, 2006

1301 K Street, N.W. Suite 1100 – East Tower Washington, DC 20005 202-414-9200